

What is claimed is:

1. An information search/presentation system
2 comprising:
 - 3 a 3D image converter for outputting 3D image
 - 4 data on the basis of a plurality of aerial photographs
 - 5 obtained by photographing a single area from different
 - 6 places, with a physical position of the area being
 - 7 specified;
 - 8 a first database for storing a pair of a
 - 9 verbal expression and position information as a unit
 - 10 record, the verbal expression pertaining to a name and
 - 11 contents of a landmark existing in the area photographed
 - 12 to obtain the aerial photographs;
 - 13 a search engine for outputting link
 - 14 information for page data including associated contents
 - 15 from a set of page data on public view in response to an
 - 16 input keyword; and
 - 17 an 3D image browser for creating a 3D
 - 18 stereoscopic image viewed from a viewpoint position
 - 19 designated by a user on the basis of the 3D image data
 - 20 from said 3D image converter and the viewpoint position,
 - 21 presenting the image to the user, looking up said first
 - 22 database in accordance with an associated information
 - 23 presentation request associated with the position
 - 24 designated by the user, and, if a landmark corresponding
 - 25 to the designated position exists, outputting to said

26 search engine a verbal expression pertaining to a name
27 and contents of the corresponding landmark as a keyword
28 to present a search result obtained by said search
29 engine.

2. The system according to claim 1, further
2 comprising:

3 a second database for recording an ID of the
4 user and a viewpoint position of the user;
5 a user position display unit for adding a user
6 position mark indicating a current position of the user
7 to a viewpoint position designated by the user on the 3D
8 stereoscopic image presented by said 3D image browser,
9 extracting a viewpoint position and ID of a distant user
10 from said second database, and presenting the extracted
11 viewpoint position and ID with a distant user position
12 mark indicating the position of the distant user being
13 added; and

14 an interaction connection section for, when
15 the user generates a request for interaction by
16 designating a specific distant user position mark,
17 performing interaction connection upon regarding an ID
18 of a distant user corresponding to a current position of
19 the designated distant user position mark.

3. A system according to claim 2, wherein
2 said system further comprises a storage

3 section storing the maximum number of distant users, in
4 advance, which indicates the maximum number of current
5 positions of distant users which are to be displayed;
6 and

7 said user position display unit extracts
8 viewpoint positions and IDs of distant users from said
9 second database by a number equal to the maximum number
10 stored in said storage section in increasing order of
11 distance from the current position of the user, and
12 presenting the extracted viewpoint positions and IDs,
13 with distant user position marks indicating the
14 positions of the distant users being added.

4. A system according to claim 2, wherein said
2 interaction connection section activates an interaction
3 function program in making connection to a distant user.

5. A system according to claim 4, wherein the
2 interaction function program comprises a program for
3 performing interaction connection by using a selected
4 one of electronic mail, telephone, and electronic chat
5 functions.

6. A system according to claim 1, further
2 comprising:

3 a second database for storing user stay
4 information constituted by a pair of a landmark where

5 the user stayed and a stay duration of a user's stay;

6 a log retention section for recording a pair

7 of a viewpoint position of the user and a corresponding

8 time as a movement log;

9 a time storage section storing a minimum stay

10 duration in a landmark area, in advance, which is used

11 to determine whether the user is interested in a

12 specific landmark;

13 a distance storage section storing a distance

14 indicating a range of a landmark area, in advance, which

15 is used to determine whether the user is interested in a

16 specific landmark;

17 a stay duration calculation section for

18 extracting a position of a landmark over which the user

19 passed and a corresponding time from movement logs

20 retained in said log retention section by referring to

21 said second database, and calculating a stay duration in

22 the landmark area from first and last times at which a

23 viewpoint position of the user is located within the

24 range indicated by the distance stored in said distance

25 storage section which corresponds to positions before

26 and after the position of the extracted landmark;

27 a stay landmark determination section for,

28 when the stay duration output from said stay duration

29 calculation section is not less than the time stored in

30 said time storage section, determining that the user has

31 stayed in the landmark, and adding a unit record

32 constituted by a pair of a landmark name and a stay
33 duration to said second database;

34 an instruction log retention section for
35 recording a unit record constituted by a pair of a
36 landmark name for which an associated information
37 presentation instruction is issued by the user and a
38 designated time as an information presentation
39 instruction log; and

40 a presentation section for outputting all
41 records in said second database and all records in said
42 log retention section in accordance with a totalizing
43 result presentation instruction.

7. A system according to claim 1, wherein
2 said 3D image browser comprises:

3 a 3D image creation section for creating a 3D
4 stereoscopic image viewed from a viewpoint position
5 designated by the user on the basis of 3D image data
6 from said 3D image converter and the viewpoint position;
7 a database access section for accessing said
8 database in accordance with an associated information
9 presentation request associated with the viewpoint
10 position designated by the user; and

11 a search control section for, when an access
12 result indicates that a landmark corresponding a
13 designated position exists, outputting to said search
14 engine a verbal expression pertaining to a name and

15 contents of the corresponding landmark as a keyword, and
16 presenting a search result output from said search
17 engine.

8. An information search/presentation system
2 comprising:

3 3D image conversion means for outputting 3D
4 image data on the basis of a plurality of aerial
5 photographs obtained by photographing a single area from
6 different places, with a physical position of the area
7 being specified;

8 a database for storing a pair of a verbal
9 expression and position information as a unit record the
10 verbal expression pertaining a name and contents of a
11 landmark existing in the area photographed to obtain the
12 aerial photographs;

13 search means for outputting link information
14 for page data including associated contents from a set
15 of page data on public view in response to an input
16 keyword;

17 3D image creation means for creating a 3D
18 stereoscopic image viewed from a viewpoint position
19 designated by a user on the basis of the 3D image data
20 from said 3D image converter and the viewpoint position;

21 database access means for accessing said
22 database in accordance with an associated information
23 presentation request associated with the position

24 designated by the user; and
25 search control means for, if an access result
26 indicating that a landmark corresponding to the
27 designated position exists, outputting to said search
28 means a verbal expression pertaining to a name and
29 contents of the corresponding landmark as a keyword, and
30 presenting a search result output from said search means.